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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Boards of Health and Code Enforcement Agencies

FROM: Howard S. Wensley, MS, CHO
Director

DATE: July 3, 2002

SUBJECT: Medication at Recreational Camps for Children

Because health consequences related to allergies and asthma may be extremely serious, the Division of Community Sanitation feels it is important to restate the Department's regulations and policies relative to the immediate access to life saving medication such as Epi-pens[®] and inhalers by campers.

105 CMR 430.160: Minimum Sanitation Standards for Recreational Camps for Children regarding the Storage and Administration of Medication requires that:

"Medications shall only be administered by the health supervisor¹ or by a licensed health care professional authorized to administer prescription medications. If the health supervisor is not a licensed health care professional authorized to administer prescription medications, the administration of medications shall be under the professional oversight of the health care consultant²."

Pursuant to the Department's "Guidelines for the Storage and Administration of Medications in Camps", the Health Care Consultant is responsible for developing and overseeing a written policy for the storage and administration of all medications at camp. The policy must

¹ A health supervisor means a person on the staff of a recreational camp for children who is responsible for the day to day operation of the health program or component, who is at least 18 years of age and is specially trained in first aid and CPR (105 CMR 430.020 and 105 CMR 430.159 (C),

² A health care consultant must be a Massachusetts licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant with pediatric training (105 CMR 430.159 (A).

identify those individuals who are permitted to administer medications. Those persons may include:

- (a) Individuals authorized by scope of practice (such as registered nurses) to administer medications; and/or
- (b) Other individuals qualified as supervisors. These individuals must be trained by the consultant to administer medications and shall do so under the oversight of the consultant. They may only administer oral or topical medications.

The policy provides, however, that the consultant may make an exception to allow for the administration of Epi-pens[®] or inhalers for campers with a known allergy or pre-existing medical conditions, for whom the Epi-pen[®] or inhaler has been prescribed. This does not allow for the administration of an Epi-pens[®] or inhaler to a camper without his/her own prescription.

In addition, if a camper comes to camp with a prescription Epi-pen[®] or inhaler, the child is capable of self-medicating and the parent and the camp health care consultant give written approval, the camper may be allowed to carry these devices with him/her at all times and to use them if so required.

Given the extreme importance of this policy it is requested that you transmit this information to all of the camps operating within your jurisdiction.

If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Community Sanitation at (617) 983-6761.